

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02744 01 OF 02 232018Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EA-07 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04

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SS-15 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 SAM-01 /101 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 308

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY WARSAW

CINCPAC

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CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN AFB

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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02744 01 OF 02 232018Z

CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG

CSAF WASHDC//AFINA/SSA
CNO WASHDC//OP-614
DA WASHDC//DAMI-FII
OSD/ISA/EUR WASHDC

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FOR POLADS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, UR, US, VN, SO, MO

SUBJECT: SOVIET PRESS SUMMARY - FEBRUARY 21 - 23

1. SUMMARY.

-- COVERAGE OF THE U.S. REMAINS CRITICAL, BUT IS LESS
HARSH THAN IN RECENT PAST;

-- PRAVDA TAKES A SMALL DIG AT CHINESE INTRANSIGENCE IN
REFUSING OFFICIAL VISITS TO SOI VET GRAVES IN CHINA;
--CENTRAL PRESS LINKS RETENTION OF U.S. FORCES IN THAILAND
WITH THAI REACTIONARY CAMPAIGN AGAINST DRV;

-- KOSYGIN AND PODGORNYY SEE MOROCCAN AND SOMALI ENVOYS;

11 THE PRESS HAS FOREIGN COMMUNIST PARTIES PRAISING THE
CPSU FOR ITS ROLE IN CHANGING THE WORLD CORRELATION
OF FORCES TO THEIR BENEFIT:

-- A PRAVDA COMMENTARY ON SPAIN SIDES WITH THE SPANISH
COMMUNIST PARTY AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT BUT DOES NOT
RULE OUT REFORM UNDER JUAN CARLOS (SEPTTEL);

--COVERAGE OF THE FRG IS GENERALLY UPBEAT, BUT TAKES CAUTIONARY
NOTE OF DEBATE ON POLISH AGREEMENTS AND WARNS OF "REACTIONARY
SURGE" IN FRG;

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 02744 01 OF 02 232018Z

--AND ARMED FORCES ANNIVERSARY ARTICLES BY MILITARY BIG-
WIGS DEMONSTRATE CONTINUED SELF-CONFIDENCE, THOUGH IN
GENERALLY RESTRAINED TONES (SEPTTEL).

2. UNITED STATES. COVERAGE, THOUGH STILL CRITICAL, IS
RELATIVELY SOFTER ON THE U.S. THAN HAS BEEN THE CASE IN
THE PAST FEW DAYS. PRAVDA'S (FEB 22) INTERNATIONAL
REVIEW PLACES THE IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS

FOURTH ON THE LIST OF ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE THE LAST PARTY CONGRESS, BEHIND SOCIALIST UNITY, VICTORY IN VIETNAM, AND CSCE; AND LISTS PROGRESS IN SOVIET-AMERICAN ARMS NEGOTIATIONS AS A PRIORITY FOREIGN POLICY GOAL FOR THE FUTURE. PRAVDA (FEB 22) CARRIES A LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM A SAILOR IN VLADIVOSTOK WHO CLAIMS THE FORD-BREZHNEV MEETING HAD SPECIAL MEANING FOR SOVIET DOWNEASTERS AS WELL AS FOR SOVIET-AMERICAN RELATIONS. PRAVDA FEBRUARY 22 CARRIES ANOTHER SHORT ITEM REPORTING SUPPORT BY U.S. BUSINESS FOR IMPROVED TRADE WITH THE SOVIET UNION. CENTRAL PRESS (FEB 23) CARRIES A VERY BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT OF NIXON'S ARRIVAL IN PEKING. AN ACCOMPANYING ONE-SENTENCE TASS REPORT CITES A WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT THAT THE VISIT IS A "PRIVATE JOURNEY ABROAD BY A PRIVATE AMERICAN CITIZEN." IZVESTIYA (FEB 21) CARRIES A SHORT COMMENTARY ENTITLED "WHAT BOTHERS REAGAN," AND CONCLUDES THAT DETENTE DOES. THE ARTICLE REFUTES REAGAN'S SUPPORT FOR CRUISE MISSILES, COMMENTING THAT ONLY COLD WARRIORS AND THE MILITARY-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX COULD CONCEIVABLY SUPPORT THEIR DEVELOPMENT. A LENGTHIER PIECE IN THE SAME ISSUE OF IZVESTIYA HITS HARD AT THE REPORTEDLY SORRY STATE OF FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE U.S. IN ITS OTHERWISE STANDARD DISCUSSION OF ANGOLA, PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL WEEK CLAIMS THAT "EVEN THE U.S. PRESS" IS SPECULATING THAT WASHINGTON IS CONSIDERING GRANTING DIPLOMATIC RECOGNITION TO THE MPLA REGIME. PRAVDA (FEB 23) CITES A NYTIMES STORY THAT PRESIDENT FORD PERMITTED BOEING AND GULF OIL TO "RESTORE NORMAL RELATIONS" WITH ANGOLA; THE TIMES REPORTEDLY CONJECTURES THAT THIS MIGHT BE THE "FIRST STEP" TOWARD ESTABLISHING U.S.-ANGOLA DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. IZVESTIYA FEBRUARY 20 REPORTS FROM BRUSSELS THAT THE AMERICAN DELEGATION "PLAYED FIRST FIDDLE" AT THE ZIONIST CONFERENCE IN THAT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 04 MOSCOW 02744 01 OF 02 232018Z

CITY, AND NOTES PARTICIPATION BY SENATOR CHURCH. TO CLOSE ON THE UPBEAT, PRAVDA (FEB 23) CARRIES A CARTOON DEPICTING A "SMILE"-FACED EXPRESS TRAIN BARRELING TOWARD DETENTE ACROSS A TRESTLE CONSTRUCTED FROM THE FIGURES "XXV."

3. CHINA. PRAVDA (FEB 22) CARRIES A BRIEF TASS REPORT FROM PEKING THAT THE CHINESE REFUSED TO PERMIT SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS, ON THE OCCASION OF SOVIET ARMY AND NAVY DAY, TO VISIT GRAVES OF SOVIETS WHO HAD DIED WHILE FIGHTING THE "FORCES OF IMPERIALISM AND REACTION" IN ORDER TO "LIBERATE CHINA."

4. SOUTHEAST ASIA. PRAVDA'S LEAD COMMENTARY (FEB 22) DEALS WITH UPCOMING ASEAN SUMMIT, AND REPEATS MOSCOW'S

CONCERN RE THE INCREASING MILITARIZATION OF THE ORGANIZATION, BUT THE AUTHOR (V. KALININ) REMAINS RESOLUTELY OPTIMISTIC THAT THE LOCAL NATIONAL LEADERS ARE AGAINST IT. CENTRAL PRESS (FEB 22) CARRIES A TASS REPORT FROM HANOI WHICH REPEATS NORTH VIETNAMESE CONCERNS THAT U.S. FORCES WILL REMAIN IN THAILAND BEYOND THEIR DECLARED WITHDRAWAL DATE. PURPOSE OF REMAINING IN THAILAND, ACCORDING TO THE TASS REPORT, IS TO SUPPORT A REACTIONARY CAMPAIGN AIMED AT THE DRV.

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 02744 02 OF 02 232111Z

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AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 02744 02 OF 02 232111Z

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5. AFRICA. IN VERY LIGHT COVERAGE, PRAVDA (FEB 21) REPORTS THAT KOSYGIN MET WITH MOROCCAN PRIME MINISTER AHMED OSMAN, TO DISCUSS "EXISTING INTERNATIONAL PROBLEMS." PRAVDA (FEB 22) REPORTS THAT PODGORNYY MET WITH THE SOMALI AMBASSADOR TO DISCUSS "QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST." COMMENT. ALTHOUGH THE BRIEF PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS, AS USUAL, DO NOT REVEAL DETAILS OF SUCH MEETINGS, WE SPECULATE THAT EACH OF THESE VISITORS WAS PROBABLY SOLICITING SOVIET SUPPORT IN THE SAHARAN AND FTAI DISPUTES RESPECTIVELY. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE MEETINGS CARRIED SOME URGENCY IN THAT THE TWO SOVIET LEADERS UNDOUBTEDLY HAD HEAVY SCHEDULES DUE TO THE PREPARATIONS FOR THE CONGRESS. END COMMENT.

6. COMMUNIST AFFAIRS. THE PRESS CONTINUES THE CRESCENDO IN ITS CAMPAIGN OF SUPPORT FOR THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE PEACE PROGRAM AND SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY IN GENERAL, EMPHASIZING, IN THIS PARTICULAR PHASE OF THE CAMPAIGN, STATEMENTS BY FOREIGN COMMUNIST PARTIES. A FRENCH COMMUNIST SPOKESMAN, PIERRE DURAND, WRITES IN IZVESTIYA FEBRUARY 21 ON PCF SUPPORT FOR SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY, SAYING THAT "THIS (SUPPORT) WAS EMPHASIZED AT THE PCF CONGRESS." HE SAYS THAT THE PEACE PROGRAM "IS IMPORTANT FOR THE FATE OF THE WORLD AND REPRESENTS AN INTEGRAL --AND VERY IMPORTANT-- PART OF THE GENERAL PROGRESS OF SOCIALISM...." PRAVDA FEBRUARY 22 QUOTES THE HEAD OF

THE VENEZUELAN CP TO THE SAME EFFECT, AND IN THE INTER-
NATIONAL REVIEW COLUMN THAT SAME DAY CONTENDS THAT THE
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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 02744 02 OF 02 232111Z

USSR'S ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL PROGRESS "ANSWERS THE
INTERESTS OF ALL WORKERS, ALL PROGRESSIVE FORCES...".
COMMENT: THE THRUST OF ALL THIS IS THAT EVEN IF OTHER
CP'S HAVE DIFFICULTY ACKNOWLEDGING THE IDEOLOGICAL
SUPREMACY OF THE CPSU, THEY SHOULD REALIZE THAT IT HAS
BEEN THE USSR WHICH HAS CAUSED THE SHIFT IN THE "WORLD
CORRELATION OF FORCES" FAVORABLE TO "PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENTS".
EVEN THE PCF, IZVESTIYA SEEMS TO SAY, UNDERSTANDS THIS
MUCH. END COMMENT. CONTINUING SOVIET INTEREST IN THE
EUROPEAN PARTY CONFERENCE IS EVIDENT IN PRAVDA'S REPRINT
JANUARY 22 OF A JOINT STATEMENT BY HONECKER AND NOR-
WEGIAN CP HEAD KNUTSEN PROMISING "FURTHER CONSTRUCTIVE
EFFORTS" IN ITS PREPARATION.
STOESSEL

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